

Message Text

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13

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 INT-05 L-03 SP-02

DLOS-06 SAL-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2937

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, NEAFC

SUBJECT: FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION

DEPT FOR OES/OFA

PASS: COMMERCE, NMFS/BLONDIN, NOAA/WALLACE

REF: LISBON 4503

SUMMARY:

AS INDICATED IN REFERENCE TELEGRAM THE DOMINANT ISSUE OF THIS
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MEETING WAS THE RAPIDLY APPROACHING 200-MILE REGIME. THIS

RESULTED IN THE SCHEDULING OF A MEETING LATER THIS YEAR FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF NEAFC TO ENSURE THAT COASTAL STATES WILL HAVE DIRECT CONTROL OVER THEIR MARINE RESOURCES. BECAUSE OF THIS NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON 1977 QUOTAS OF ALL THE MAJOR STOCKS EXCEPT FOR NORTH SEA SOLE AND PLAICE. THEREFORE NEXT NOVEMBER'S MID-TERM MEETING WILL BE EXTREMELY CRUCIAL BECAUSE NOT ONLY WILL IT BE CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF NEAFC BUT ALSO COULD PRODUCE A COMPLETELY NEW SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATING FISHERIES RESOURCES. END SUMMARY

1. PAUL ELLIOT, FORMER PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO UK MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES PERT, HAS REPLACED DR. TONY BURNE AS NEAFC SECRETARY. BURNE IS NOW WORKING FOR JULIAN KELSEY IN THE UK FISHERIES MINISTRY. THE CUBAN OBSERVER ANNOUNCED THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL BE APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NEAFC THIS YEAR AND THAT THEY EXPECT TO OBTAIN NOMINAL QUOTAS FOR HERRING AND GROUND-FISH STOCKS IN 1977. FINLAND ATTENDED THE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A MEMBER.

2. WHEN DISCUSSIONS FOR QUOTA ALLOCATIONS BEGAN, MANY COUNTRIES ASKED FOR INCREASES DESPITE THE GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK INDICATED BY THE ICES LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT. EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR WERE VERY ANXIOUS THAT QUOTA ALLOCATIONS FOR 1977 BE SET IMMEDIATELY BUT WHEN THIS TREND BECAME APPARENT COASTAL COUNTRIES BEGAN JOINING FORCES TO STYMIE THE EAST EUROPEAN MOVE. AS THE MAJOR STOCKS WERE DISCUSSED ONE BY ONE IT WAS AGREED TO POSTPONE ALLOCATIONS AND QUOTAS UNTIL THE NOVEMBER MEETING. THE NETHERLANDS WAS ABLE TO MAKE A STRONG CASE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS SOLE AND PLAICE FISHERY WITH THE RESULT THAT THE COMMISSION AGREED TO ADOPT THE SAME QUOTAS FOR 1977 AS WERE ALLOCATED IN 1976. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS REDUCED THEIR FISHING CAPACITY FOR FLATFISH 16 PERCENT IN 1975 AND WILL REDUCE IT BY 20 PERCENT MORE IN 1976. THIS REDUCTION IN FISHING CAPACITY WILL NOT REDUCE THE TOTAL CATCH BY THE DUTCH FLEET BUT IT WILL MAKE IT MORE PROFITABLE FOR THE REMAINING VESSELS. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. DENMARK INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A PROPOSED 10 PERCENT LIMITATION ON BY-CATCH OF HERRING IN THE NORTH SEA. NORWAY, THE OTHER COUNTRY PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THIS ISSUE, SAID THEY COULD ACCEPT THE 10 PERCENT FIGURE. HOWEVER-THIS PROPOSAL WAS ALSO POSTPONED.

4. FRANCE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED

A PROPOSAL TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FISHING EFFORT DURING 1977 IN STATISTICAL AREAS 8 AND 9 (ATLANTIC COASTAL WATERS OF ABOVE COUNTRIES) WITH ONLY THOSE THREE COUNTRIES FISHING IN THE REGION. THEY WERE SHOCKED WHEN THE USSR INTRODUCED A PAPER INDICATING THAT THEY CAUGHT APPROXIMATELY 27,000 MT IN THOSE AREAS. THE SOVIETS HAD NEVER REPORTED ANY CATCH STATISTICS FOR THOSE AREAS BEFORE. THE POLISH DELEGATION SAID THEIR VESSELS ALSO STOP TO FISH THESE WATERS WHEN ENROUTE TO POLAND FROM WEST AFRICA. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT PROVIDE CATCH STATISTICS. CUBA ASKED FOR 4,500 MT QUOTAS IN BOTH AREAS 8 AND 9 BUT WERE REFUSED BY THE NEW SPANISH COMMISSION, MR. J. CONDE OF THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING MR. CONDE MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS AGAINST CUBA BEING ALLOWED QUOTAS AT THIS TIME DESPITE CUBAN OBSERVER OTULSKI'S ATTEMPT TO PLACATE HIS "MOTHER COUNTRY".
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